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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Baltic Area)	REPORT NO.	25X1A
SUBJECT	Coastal Battery on Irben Strait	DATE DISTR.	18 September 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.	8 and 9 December 1952	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	25X1A	REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

25X1 1. [redacted] enroute from Rotterdam to Riga, was in the Irben Strait about four nautical miles from the shore in the prescribed swept channel to Riga, which runs about parallel to the coast, and had reached position 7 (N 57-40, E 22-04), informant heard gun reports from ahead, and immediately afterwards observed the glare of muzzle flashes. He could determine the approximate position of the firing battery by bearings as between the "Blue Mountain" and Saunaken lighthouse. Judging from the broad glare of muzzle flashes and the heavy booming of the guns, which were not emplaced close to the shore, informant believed that heavy guns were firing.

25X1 2. [redacted] whose running lights could easily be seen in the dark night and clear atmosphere, approached the firing area, the firing ceased. At about 0100 hours the position lights of a tug suddenly appeared dead ahead. Informant believed that they had been darkened until the tug was close to

25X1 [redacted] The tug was proceeding outside the swept channel and was towing a target. The tug was on a westerly course, proceeding at slow speed, towing a floating pontoon about 40 meters long with a square canvas target on it.

3. No warning of the night firing practice had been given. At 1100 hours a Soviet KRONSHTAADT-class guard ship [redacted] This vessel was on the prescribed swept channel, carrying no lights, and flashed a signal by searchlight calling for name, nationality, and destination [redacted]

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4. Informant could not give the number of rounds fired. He had seen no searchlight activity. The captain of informant's ship stated that the battery was a stationary heavy-caliber coastal battery allegedly for barrage fire covering the Irben Strait at the Svorbe Narrows (Saaremaa Island).

25X1A 1. [redacted] Comment. In the German Light List 1951 edition, Saunaken lighthouse is listed under the name of Saunagu at position N 57-43, E 22-27. For the approximate position of the battery see sketch on page 2.

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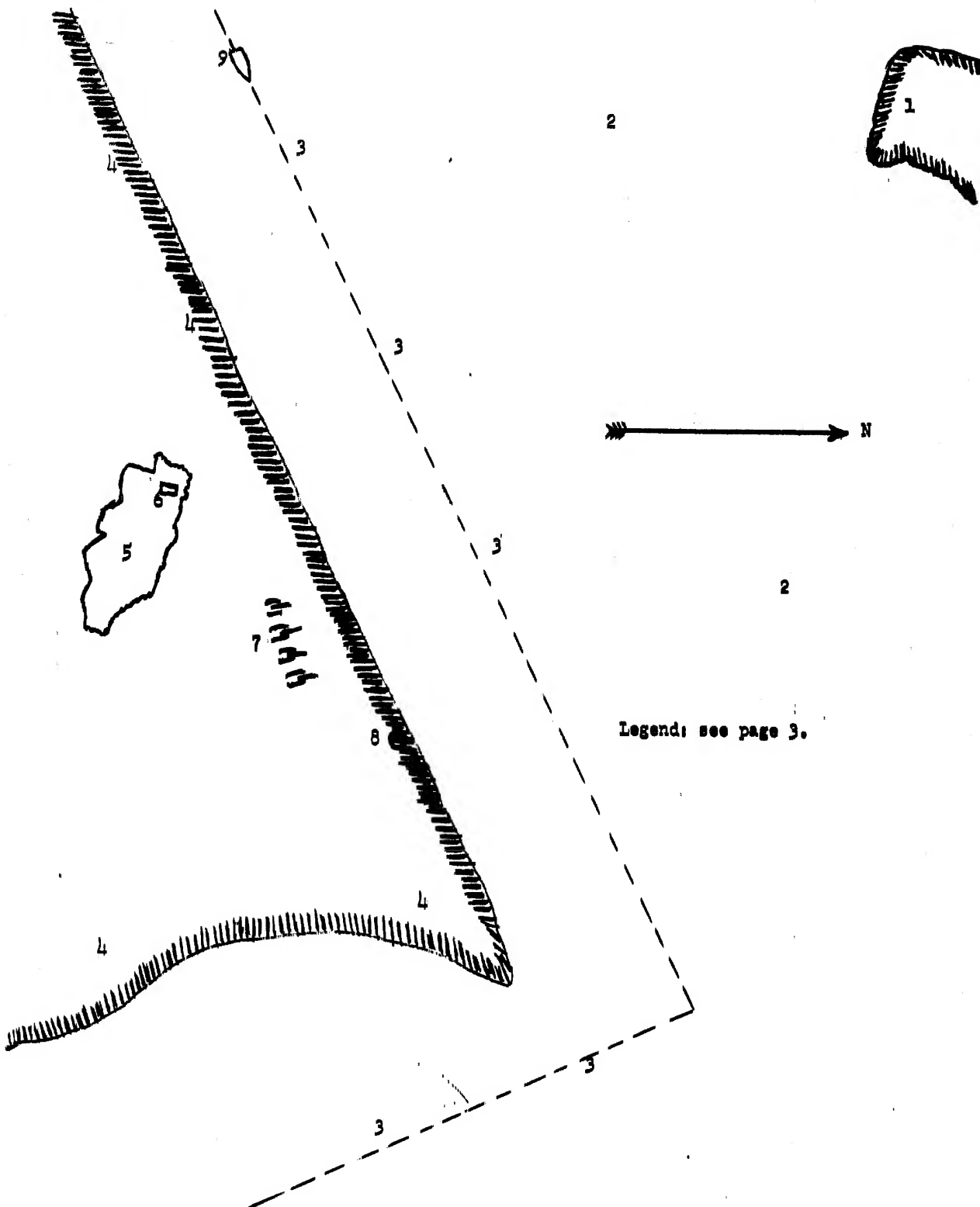
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Legend; see page 3.

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Legend:

1. Svorbe Peninsula.
2. Irben Strait.
3. Prescribed swept channel, approach to Riga.
4. Latvian coast
5. The "Blue Mountain".
6. Round tower on the "Blue Mountain".
7. Approximate position of the battery emplacement. The number of guns could not be determined.
8. Saunaken (Saunagu) lighthouse.
9. Position of source's ship at 2400 hours

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